

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD SUMMARY

Tuesday, January 21, 2004

SENATE

Measures Introduced:

_____ **S. 2010.** A bill *to strengthen national security and United States borders, reunify families, provide willing workers, and establish earned adjustment under the immigration laws of the United States;* to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Hagel

Page S 108, S 109-117

S. 2011. A bill *to convert certain temporary Federal district judgeships to permanent judgeships, and for other purposes;* to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Hagel

Page S 108, S 117-118

H.R. 2673 - Agriculture Appropriations Act (Omnibus Appropriations)--Conference Report:

Senate continued consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2673, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004.

Pages S 66-S 104, D 8

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the conference report at 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, January 22, 2004 and that there then be 4 ½ hours equally divided between the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee or their designees for debate only; that following the use or yielding back of that debate time, the motion to proceed and the motion to reconsider the failed cloture vote be agreed to; and the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture and that if cloture is invoked, the Senate then immediately proceed to a vote on the adoption of the conference report.

Pages S 104, D 8

Committee Meetings for Thursday, January 22, 2003:

Committee on the Judiciary: @ 10:00 a.m. To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Raymond W. Gruender, of Missouri, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, Ricardo S. Martinez, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, Gene E. K. Pratter, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Neil Vincent Wake, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona. SD-226.

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Remarks:

_____ **President's Address to Congress.**

_____ "...Looking to the future--and our obligation is to look to the future-- there are critical structural problems that we in this body need to take head on, not to shy away from but to go right after, to tackle head on.

The one area that is critical to job growth--the President mentioned it last night--is tort reform. Over the last decade, class action lawsuits have exploded. State court class action filings have skyrocketed by over 1,300 percent in just the last 10 years. It is really not just the statistic, not just the figure, but it is the result. The result of this glut of claims is to clog our court system, our State courts. They simply cannot handle them all. It is inefficient in terms of government. It wastes taxpayer dollars..."

Frist

Pages S 62-66

HOUSE

Measures Introduced:

H.R. 3726. A bill *to authorize the grant program under which the Secretary of Homeland Security makes discretionary grants for use in high-threat, high-density urban areas, and for other purposes*; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Weiner *Page H 89*

H.J. Res. 86. A joint *resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States*; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Jenkins *Page H 89*

Committee Meetings:

Committee on the Judiciary: Ordered reported, as amended, the following bills: **H.R. 2844**, Continuity in Representation Act of 2003; **H.R. 1997**, Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2003; **H.R. 3261**, *Database and Collections of Information Misappropriation Act*; and **H.R. 2391**, Cooperative Research and Technology Enhancement (CREATE) Act of 2003.

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Remarks:

Honoring Mr. Michael Katz of Boulder, Colorado.

"...Over the past 25 years, Michael Katz has been a successful and well-respected federal public defender for Colorado and Wyoming. Since 1978, he has handled thousands of cases, giving quality legal counsel to defendants who could not afford representation. In doing so, he has demonstrated and protected some of the most precious aspects of our democracy and Constitution. Unfortunately, Michael will be retiring this year. Instead of pursuing justice, he and his wife Susan will be pursuing the beauty of the Atlantic Coast as they sail from Chesapeake Bay to Key West..."

Udall *Page E 22*

Next SENATE MEETING: 9:30 a.m., Thursday, January 22, 2004.

Next HOUSE MEETING: 10:00 a.m., Friday, January 23, 2004.

OLA: A. Getter-Santos